

## WONTHAGGI RAILWAY STATION



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1 wonthaggi railway station  
front elevation jan1985



Wonthaggi Railway Station  
2006



Wonthaggi Railway Station  
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Wonthaggi Railway Station  
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Wonthaggi Railway Station  
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Wonthaggi Railway Station  
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2006



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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 21, 2025

### What is significant?

Wonthaggi Railway Station was constructed in 1912 by A Frongernd on the Nyora-Wonthaggi line for the Victorian Railways. The complex comprises a Queen Anne style, brick and rough cast, hip-roofed station building, a corrugated iron goods shed, van goods shed and a motor powered crane. The railway station has not been in use since 1978.

### How is it significant?

Wonthaggi Railway Station is historically and architecturally significant to the State of Victoria.

### Why is it significant?

Wonthaggi Railway Station is architecturally significant as a unique and intact example of the 'Gisborne' style of station building. The 'Gisborne' style is described as being typically Edwardian with a distinct Queen Anne character, and was constructed during the years 1909 to c.1920. It forms one of the largest groups of standard station buildings, spread throughout the rail network.

Wonthaggi Railway Station is historically significant for the role it played in the exploitation of Victoria's coalfields. The railway line was established in 1910, and the permanent location of the line and the station was the basis for the scheme of subdivisions as Wonthaggi began to flourish. Thus the railway line and station are significant for their role in the development of Wonthaggi proper (Coghlan, JM). The 'Gisborne' style of station building, that Wonthaggi Railway Station is an example of, was a design developed to satisfy the urgent need for improved standards of the existing facilities during the years of 1909 to c.1920.

## Permit Exemptions

### General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

Places of worship: In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must **notify** the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

Subdivision/consolidation: Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

## Specific Exemptions:

### General Conditions

1. All alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner that prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object.
2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of alterations that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such alteration shall cease and the Executive Director shall be notified as soon as possible.
3. If there is a conservation policy and plan approved by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it.
4. Nothing in this declaration prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.
5. Nothing in this declaration exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authority where applicable.

\* All basic refurbishment works including repairs to buildings and structures, where works are documented and administered by a recognised conservation consultant

\* Installation of perimeter fencing

\* Installation of new landscaping features but excluding earthworks where more than 1m<sup>3</sup> of ground is to be altered

### Station Buildings

#### Exterior

\* Replacement of decayed fabric with fabric that matches the original design and profile.

\* Installation of new but not removal of existing original significant signage.

\* Installation of temporary protective hoardings, screens and the like for the protection against intrusion of vandals and the like provided that no damage is sustained to significant fabric.

\* Installation of new damp proofing and making good to match existing, adjacent surfaces.

#### Interior

\* Interior painting but not stripping of existing paint scheme

\* Installation of new but not removal of existing original significant carpets/flexible floor coverings

\* Installation of new but not removal of existing original significant fixtures and fittings, including clocks, soft furnishings including curtain tracks, rods, blinds and other window dressings, and the like.

\* Installation of new but not the removal of existing original significant signage

\* Installation of new partitions provided that no damage is sustained to significant fabric

\* Replacement of non-original kitchen and toilet fixtures provided that no damage is sustained to significant fabric

\* Installation of insulation to ceiling spaces

\* Installation of hooks, nails and other devices for the hanging of paintings, mirrors and other wall mounted works of art.

Construction dates            1912,

Architect/Designer           Hardy, James W,

Heritage Act Categories    Registered place,

Hermes Number                4851

Property Number

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## History

Wonthaggi Railway Station is historically significant for the role it played in the exploitation of Victoria's coalfields. The development of the Powlett Coalfield was dependant on a reliable form of transport which then lead to the establishment of the railway as a means for the coal to be transported back to Melbourne. Prior to this coal was sent by bullock and horse teams to Inverloch and then by small steamer to Melbourne. Although the township of Wonthaggi had been established prior to the railway line, the permanent location of the line and the station was the basis for the scheme of subdivision as Wonthaggi began to flourish. (Coghlan, J. M. 1979)  
The 'Gisborne' style of station building, that Wonthaggi Railway Station is an example of a station developed to satisfy the urgent need for improved standards of the existing facilities during the years of 1909 to c.1920. (Beeston, 1995)

## Extent of Registration

Heritage Act 1995

### NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the Heritage Act, I give notice under section 46 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended in that the Heritage Register Number 1557 in the category described as a Heritage Place is now described as:

Wonthaggi Railway Station, 8-12 Murray Street, Wonthaggi, Bass Coast Shire Council.

#### EXTENT:

1. All of the buildings known as the Wonthaggi Railway Station, including the station building and all associated platforms and fences (B1), the goods shed (B2), the van goods shed (B3) and the motor powered crane (B4), as marked on plan 602919 held by the executive Director.

2. All of the land surrounding the buildings marked L1 on plan 602919 held by the executive Director, being part of land sold by Victorian Rail Track to the local shire council.

Dated 6 July 2000.

RAY TONKIN

Executive Director

[Government Gazette G29 20 July 2000 p1776]

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*